

Sandbach Urban District Council.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH. 1924.



**ROBERT RIDDELL,
M.B.C.M.,
Medical Officer of Health.**



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Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Sandbach Urban District, 1924

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration the Annual Report for 1924 on the health conditions of the District.

1. General Statistics.

Area 2,693 acres, $\frac{3}{4}$ sand, $\frac{1}{4}$ clay soil.

Population 6,086.

Rateable Value £16,683 5s. 8d.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate, £69 10s. 3d.

Inhabited Houses, 1,451. Families, 1,500.

2. Extracts from Vital Statistics.

Births.

The number of births registered during the year was 136. Boys 66. Girls 70. The birth rate per 1,000 of the population being 22·6. Of these births, 1 was illegitimate.

Deaths.

There have been 78 deaths, making an average per 1,000 of 12·9. Of these deaths 8 were of people belonging to, but dying out of the district.

Infantile Deaths.

8 children died in the district under 1 year of age, making an average of 58·8 per 1,000 births. The causes of death of these children were as follows: 3 Debility from birth, 2 Measles 2 Broncho-Pneumonia, 1 Congenital Malformation.

Infectious Diseases.

There have been 114 cases of Infectious Diseases: 86 Scarlet Fever, 5 Diphtheria, 3 Tuberculosis of Lungs, 11 Tuberculosis of other parts, 1 Erysipelas, 3 Encephalitis Lethargica, 4 Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 1 Puerperal Fever. Of these 86 cases of Scarlet Fever, 65 were removed to Hospital and 21 were treated at home. 5 of the cases of Diphtheria and 1 case of Encephalitis was removed to Hospital, 4 cases of Ophthalmia were sent to the Eye Hospitals, all recovering without impairment of sight.

Other cases of Infectious Diseases not notifiable but who died were as follows—Measles 5, Whooping Cough 2.

Special Feature of Epidemics.

A mild type of Scarlet Fever has kept cropping up during the whole year. None of the cases were very serious and 2 Schools Eg. Wheelock Wesleyan, and Sandbach Infants, were closed for short periods in February, and March. We had an epidemic of Measles extending from April till July, a great number of cases occurring all over the District which necessitated the closing for various periods of the following Schools:—Elworth C.E., Wheelock Wesleyan, Sandbach Infants, Sandbach Heath, Sandbach C.E., boys and girls. All these Schools were disinfected before they were reopened.

Midwives.

There are 6 midwives now practising in our district, the 2 extra ones have greatly improved the conditions that were hardly satisfactory due to the temporary shortage, two of these doing ordinary nursing as well as midwifery.

Child Welfare.

These Clinics held fortnightly under the supervision of the County Council, continue to do good work, there have been 470 visits made to the Marriott House by mothers with their children during the year, where the children are weighed and examined for defects, and hints and advice given on various matters with relation to the welfare of the infants. The mothers can obtain necessaries at a reduced figure, which they find a very great help to them during the present lack of employment and they receive every encouragement from the willing staff of ladies who give their valuable time gratuitously.

Hospitals.

There are no Hospitals in the immediate district, but we have a share in 3 Conjoint Hospitals, Eg.

(1.) Arclid Infirmary.

Which belongs to the Congleton Board of Guardians, containing 84 Beds, for sutable cases of the needy sick poor or accidents, also for maternity cases if so desired

(2.) West Heath Sanitorium.

A Conjoint Hospital with 55 beds for Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Typhoid and Encephalitis Lethargica.

(3.) Small Pox Hospital.

At Arclid with 10 beds, 5 for each sex in constant working order under the charge of a caretaker and his wife.

General Hospitals.

All serious operative cases are sent to Manchester Royal Infirmary, St. Mary's Hospital, the Royal Eye Hospitals at Manchester, or to the Stoke Infirmary at Hartshill, where they get every care and efficient treatment. All cases have been readily admitted and there has been no hardship whatever in the way of obtaining speedy treatment.

Ambulance Facilities.

In addition to Messers Fodens Ambulance, we have now another Ambulance belonging to the St. John Ambulance Brigade, which has proved to be a **very great help** in removing the sick to Hospital and very efficiently indeed have they carried out their duties; the poor find the reduced cost a great boon.

Factories and Workshops.

These consisting of Engineering Works, Silk, Fustian, Chemical Works and Milk Factories are visited regularly. They are all clean and kept well whitewashed. The privy and water systems are quite satisfactory.

Pathological Examination.

All these excepting the Tuberculosis Sputum Specimens are sent to the Manchester Laboratory at York Place, free of charge to the people and reports are sent direct to the Medical Attendants, as well as to the M.O.H. 10 specimens being sent in 1924. The Tuberculosis specimens are sent to the T.B. Officer at Chester, where they are done free of charge. All serums are supplied free of cost by the Council.

Tuberculosis.

All cases when diagnosed or doubtful are sent to the Clinic at Crewe, where they receive every attention and where, if it is considered advisable, they are treated with Tuberculin or sent to a suitable Sanatorium. I have found no difficulty in getting treatment for patients there and vacancies are speedily found for them if Sanatorium treatment is necessary. The T.B. Officer sends a report on every new case he sees to the Medical Officer in charge of the case and gives his advice in a very efficient manner.

Sewerage.

It is contemplated sewerage Back Lane, Sandbach Heath, Middlewich road, Smithfield Lane and Cold Moss Heath, early in the new year; only leaving Wheelock and Ettiley Heath without a Sewer.

List of Adoptive Acts and Byelaws of the Council.

No. 7. Sanitary Administration.

Part III of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890,
adopted 14th June, 1897.

Part II (Streets and Buildings) other than Sections 23 and 26.

Part III (Sanitary Provisions)

Part IV (Infectious Diseases)

Part V (Common Lodging houses) and

Part VI (Recreation Grounds) of the Public Health Acts
Amendment Act, 1907, adopted 9th July, 1923.

Byelaws.

New Street and Buildings, adopted 1st February, 1897.

New Byelaws adopted 16th June, 1924.

Slaughterhouses, adopted 1st February, 1897.

Common Lodging Houses, adopted 1st February, 1897.

Cleansing of Footways and Pavements, adopted 1st February,
1897.

Nuisances, adopted 1st February, 1897.

Market, adopted 1st December, 1890.

Regulations.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops, adopted 4th December, 1899.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer :—(Part time), Dr. Robert Riddell, M.B.C.M.E.

Other Appointments :—

Police Surgeon.

Certifying Factory Surgeon.

Surgeon Reformatory.

Medical Officer, Arclid Workhouse.

Medical Officer, Sandbach District.

Sanitary Inspector :—(Full time), Mr. George Allman.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Inspection of places where food is prepared.

The places where food is prepared are kept under observation, also the persons employed therein. The quality of the foods so prepared has been satisfactory.

Bakehouses.

These are all supplied with the town's water supply and are kept in a satisfactory condition. There are six on the Register, one having been closed during the year. None of them are underground.

Slaughter Houses.

There are seven private Slaughter Houses, four are built of bricks, the other three mostly of wood, the latter cannot be regarded as suitable, because they are difficult to keep clean. 167 visits have been made during the year, during slaughter and at other times.

The floor of one of the Slaughter Houses has been relaid with impervious material.

Limewashing notices have been issued notifying occupiers of their duties and such notices were readily complied with.

There is room for further improvement, in the immediate removal of all bones, offal, etc. after slaughtering.

The elimination of the wooden slaughtering sheds and centralization of slaughtering would be a desirable improvement

Unsound Food and Food Inspection.

It has not been found necessary to seize any carcasses during the year, an occasional liver affected with Flukes has been destroyed, on the advice of the inspector, before their removal for sale.

Occasionally there is exposed for sale in the Market a grade of fish and meat which is not up to standard. On one occasion the Medical Officer and I consulted together as to the advisability of seizing certain meat of low grade offered for sale.

Arrangements for Disinfection and Disinfestation and the extent of their use.

Infected bedding, clothing and other articles are sent to West Heath, where they are thoroughly disinfected by being passed through the steam disinfector, those at home are thor-

oughly disinfected by fumigation. Immediately after notification, printed instructions and disinfectants are issued to those in charge of infected persons. The house is disinfected by fumigation, an inspection is made and any defects noted, and reported to the Committee.

To houses where Infectious diseases were notified the Inspector has made 264 visits during the year, as well as the arrangements for the removal of the patients to the West Heath Sanatorium when instructed by the Medical Officer. He has also kept a Zymotic Disease Record Book which contains the required information relative to each case.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

These are constantly visited, there have been 128 visits during the year. Limewashing notices were issued and followed by a visit by the Inspector. In several cases it was found necessary to send a second notice.

A larger cubic space per cow in some of the shippens would be a decided improvement.

The numbers at the close of 1924 were—

Dairies	..	...	1
Cowsheds	...	...	20
Milksellers	...	...	8

Foods and Drugs Act.

The sale of Food and Drugs Acts are administered by the County Council.

Housing.

No. of New Houses erected during the year :—

(A) Total 19.

(B) With state assistance under the Housing Acts, 1919, 1923 & 1924.

(I) By Local Authority. None.

(II) By other bodies or persons :—

With State Assistance	...	15.
Without State Assistance	...	4.

Of these 19 dwellings two have shops attached, and five are of the Bungalow type. Fifteen are supplied with water closets, the other four have pail closets.

All are supplied with town's water. The addition of these houses, although very welcome, leaves the need apparently as acute as ever.

Inspection.

The inspections of premises for general defects number 599. Fourteen houses were inspected and recorded under the Inspection of District Regulations of 1910. It has not been found necessary to issue any Statutory Notices.

Action under Statutory Power.

- (a) Statutory Notices. None.
- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts. None.
- (c) Sec. 17 and 18 Housing and Town Planning Act. None.
- (d) Closing or demolition of unfit houses. None.

Sanitary Administration.

The tabular statement appended shows the total number of inspections made and notices served.

The removal of refuse is carried out partly by contract, and direct labour.

Closet pails and ashbins are emptied weekly. There has been removed during the year 1,158 loads of night soil from closets other than water closets, 911 loads of ashpit refuse, etc., from ashbins 910 loads, and traders' refuse 134 loads. No charge is made to cover the cost of removal of trade refuse. In order to prevent the accumulation of house refuse in uncovered ashpits and unsuitable receptacles, the Council adopted a Byelaw enabling them to enforce the provision of suitable dustbins.

The conversion of the various types of closets to the Water Carriage System makes very slow progress, four pails and six privy closets have been so converted. The County Medical Officer in his report has commented on the large number of Privies (352) in our district, and it does appear that unless the Public Health Act, 1907, is put in force there will be a large number of conversions.

The prompt removal of refuse receives the necessary attention and is suitably disposed of.

Different types of Closets :

Water Closets	...	...	361
Pail Closets	...	...	694
Earthenware	...	...	20
Privies	...	...	337

Work of Sanitary Inspector under Article XX.

A monthly report is made to the Sanitary Committee by the Inspector of nuisances requiring attention, and any action taken for their abatement. The report shows what progress has

been made and action taken in trying to get the required work attended to. A report is made periodically until the work has received the necessary attention.

In conclusion, one feels it necessary to remind the Committee that if the town is to be considered up-to-date in matters relating to Public Health, the following improvements should have their consideration :—

(1) The provision of a special covered cart or dust van for the removal of ashbin refuse.

(2) Abolition of uncovered ashpits and privies especially in confined areas.

(3) The elimination of wooden slaughter sheds, and, the centralization of the slaughtering of cattle, sheep and pigs, as soon as practicable.

G. ALLMAN,
Sanitary Inspector.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Medical officer of Health for the year 1924, for the Urban District of Sandbach, on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

1. Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Premises 1	Number of		
	Inspections 2	Written Notices 3	Prosecutions 4
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	18		
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	22	None	None
Workplaces (Other than Out-workers premises)	6		
Total	46		

2. Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars 1	Number of Defects	
	Found 2	Remedied 3
Sanitary Accommodation—		
Unsuitable or defective	2	1
Not separate for sexes	1	1
Total	3	2

ROBERT RIDDELL. *Medical Officer of Health.*

SANDBACH URBAN DISTRICT.

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

General Order of Local Government Board.

(Medical Officer of Health and Inspectors of Nuisances) December 13th, 1910.

Tabular Statement of Inspector of Nuisances for the Year ended December 31st, 1924.

A		B		C	
Number and Nature of Inspections made.		Number of Notices served.		Result of Service of Notices.	
		Statutory.	Informal.	Notices complied with	Remaining in hand.
Dwelling Houses (general inspections)	..	14	26	13	13
Back-to-Back Houses	..	8			
Tents, Vans, Sheds, &c.	..	41			
Courts, Yards, Passages	..	70			
Privy-Middens, Earth or Pail Closets	..	317			
Cesspools	..	89			
House Drainage	..	193			
Ditches, Watercourses, &c.	..	26			
Offensive Accumulations	..	35			
The Keeping of Animals (P.H.A., 1875, S. 91 (3))	..	21			
Slaughterhouses (Private)	..	167			
Other Places where Food is produced or sold	..	20			
Piggeries	..	17			
Dairies, Cowsheeds, Milkshops	..	128			
Factories,	..	18			
Workshops	..	22			
Workplaces	..	6			
Bakehouses (Overground)	..	35			
Common Lodging Houses	..	18			
Canal Boats	..	8			
Infectious Disease Inquiries and Revisits..	..	264			
Total	..	1517	26	13	13

G. Allman, Sanitary Inspector.

Cheshire County Council.

Tabular Summary of Sanitary Work during 1924.

SANDBACH URBAN DISTRICT.

I. Water Supply.

1. Have any extensions been carried out during 1924. If so please append brief note. No.
2. Number of Samples analysed during 1924—
chemically. None.
bacteriologically. None.
3. Are any, if so what, parts of your district still without a proper supply of water? None.

II. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

1. Specify any new works of sewerage carried out during 1924. None.
2. Are any, and if so what, parts of your district still without a proper system of sewers? The outlying districts near Wheelock, Ettiley Heath and Coldmoss Heath.
3. Have there been any complaints to your knowledge during 1924 as to disposal works? No.
4. Have any alterations or extensions taken place to your knowledge in the disposal works during 1924. No.

III. Housing.

1. Number of new houses built during 1924. 19.
2. Number of dwelling-houses inspected under s. 17 Act of 1909. 14.
3. Number of such houses considered unfit for habitation. None.
4. Number of representations made to Local Authority. None.
5. Number of closing orders made by Local Authority. None.
6. Number of houses where defects remedied *without* closing orders being made. None.
7. Number of houses where defects remedied *after* closing orders made. None.

8. Estimated or ascertained number of houses within limits of rent in s. 14 of Act of 1909. 1281.
9. Number of such houses in respect of which notice was served during 1924. 26 Preliminary Notices.
10. Number of such houses closed after notice. None.
11. Number of such houses where Local Authority has executed necessary repairs, &c. None.
12. Approximate number of back-to-back houses in the district Four.
13. Approximate number of cellar dwellings in district. None.
14. What number of dwelling-houses for the working classes has your Council, decided are required under the recent Housing Act?

IV. Town Planning.

Has any scheme of Town Planning been put forward during 1924. No scheme.

V. Maternity and Child Welfare.

1. Has a Health Visitor been appointed—Whole time } No.
Part time }
2. Are all new births which need visitation seen by Health Visitor? If so how often? No.
3. Are these infants visited regularly until 5 years of age? If so how often? Yes. By the County Council Nurse.
4. Have you any Maternity Centre, Babies' Welcome, Day Nursery, Infant Consultation, School for Mothers &c., in your district? Only Child Welfare Centre under County Council.

ROBERT RIDDELL.

March, 1925.